

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending March 28, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending March 28, 2004**. This was a good week for fieldwork, with producers making good progress on planting corn and early soybeans; however, rainfall is needed to encourage optimal growth. Cattle farmers are applying herbicide and fertilizer treatments to their pastures in preparation for spring grazing. Soil moisture was rated 7 percent very short, 30 percent short, 59 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	49	29	22	31	1	2	28	67	2
	Emerged	16	--	1	11					
Soybeans	Planted	10	--	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Jointing	70	60	53	54	0	3	49	40	8
	Heading	2	--	0	3					
Watermelons	Planted	20	--	18	13	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						1	6	33	51	9
Pasture						2	5	33	49	11
Hay Supply						Short	Adequate		Surplus	
						3	88		9	
Feed Grain						19	81		0	

County Agent Comments

"Corn and MG III and MG IV Soybeans were planted in some areas this week. Cotton ground was being prepared and the nice weather let us get off to a good start for this year's crop. Livestock are being moved to better pastures and are looking good."

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

"The clear, warmer weather allowed fields to dry sufficiently for field preparation to begin. Fields that were rutted during harvest in the fall are dry enough for tillage. Some herbicides for winter annual weed control have been applied. Corn has been planted on limited acres."

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

"We had an excellent week for fieldwork. Most corn producers finished corn planting. An excellent start has been made with soybean planting. Some soybeans have emerged. I believe we will have considerably more soybeans planted in March than ever before in the soybean planting history for Mississippi."

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Farmers took advantage of dry weather last week to plant corn and begin preparations for cotton and beans. March winds have dried the soil, leaving those with seed in the ground hoping for rain. Winter pastures were also fertilized and are responding accordingly. Ryegrass looks good across the county. Weed pressure in pastures, both winter weeds and spring weeds, is increasing.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Farmers have been able to plant crops over the past two weeks but are in desperate need of rainfall. Without rainfall, germination of seeds from the past week will be spotty in places. This is the driest March on record in this area.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Ryegrass is growing and cattle are responding well. Blueberries are in stage one of fruit development. About 20 percent of corn and 10 percent of watermelons have been planted. We've had about 15 days of excellent weather for planting crops.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“Growers have been able to get a lot of fieldwork done due to dry conditions.”

— Don Respress, Bolivar

“Field work has progressed nicely this past week. A considerable amount of soybeans and corn was planted. Showers produced ½-inch of rain that will keep farmers out of fields for a few days.”

— Ann Ruscoe, Coahoma

“Cotton producers have the black smoke rolling and if we don't get rain within the next five days, they will have most of their cotton acres ready. Many soybean producers have started planting or will start next week. Spring has sprung, prices are high and farmers are eager to get this crop in the ground.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Producers were planting corn and applying burndown herbicides to fields that will be planted later in the year. We have rain in the forecast which will stop field activities.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Everyone is starting to plant corn and soybeans. We will be in full swing Monday morning if we do not get any major rain Sunday night.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Producers are busy bedding cotton land, spraying and fertilizing pastures and wheat. Hay feeding is almost over for this year.”

— Dalton G Garner, Prentiss

“Corn and soybean planting have really taken off since last week. This is primarily due to good early burndown of winter vegetation. Most all planted acres have been on stale seedbeds. Some early cotton will be planted next week if the temperatures remain what they have been for the past week.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Although we had weeks of almost constant rain, March has turned out to be dry. In some cases, fields that were tilled prior to planting do not have enough available moisture in the seed zone to allow corn seed to emerge. This means that we need a good rain to ensure good stands on many of these fields. In general, corn planting has progressed well, and most farmers have applied burndown herbicides in preparation for planting soybeans and cotton. Conditions have been generally good for the application of lime and fertilizers as well, and these applications will continue for at least the next three weeks.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“Pastures are becoming drier and we could use some moisture to enhance spring grass production. Producers are getting spraying and fertilization completed on pasture and hay ground.”

— Kipp Brown, Carroll

“After weeks of constant rainfall since the first of the year, March has turned out to be dry. In general, corn planting has progressed well, and most farmers have applied burndown herbicides in preparation for planting soybeans and cotton.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“It seems like every tractor is planting corn, working cotton ground and bedding sweetpotatoes. Some heavier-clay soils are still too wet for equipment. High nitrogen costs and increasing soybean futures are moving acres from corn to soybeans in this area.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Growers were able to get many acres of corn planted this week, as well as get the cotton and soybean ground ready. Cattle farmers are taking advantage of the drier weather to make herbicide and fertilizer applications on their pastures.”

— Charlie Stokes, Monroe

“We missed the rains last week, which allowed corn planting to be completed in many areas. We now need a good rain because many fields have a hard, dry crust on top of the planted corn. Soybean planting started last week and our big concern is with producers chasing moisture. Webster county producers are working hard at reshaping their beds in preparation for cotton planting.”

— Dr. Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee

“Cooler weather returned to the area the first of the week, slowing growing and drying conditions. Temperatures toward the end of the week and abundant sunshine are stimulating forage growth. Fieldwork is beginning for soybeans, cotton and corn. Livestock are generally in good to excellent condition going into the spring.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Some of the forage crops are looking okay, but rain is needed.”

— Thomas E. Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“What a difference a week makes. We now stand in critical need of a good deep-soaking rain. While corn planting, ryegrass haylage and bale silage harvest have progressed well due to nice sunny days, soil moisture conditions have turned dry. Cool season pastures, emerging corn fields, and harvested ryegrass fields fertilized for a second cutting need a good rain to promote optimal growth. Several hundred acres of soybeans will be planted in the county this year when soil moisture conditions permit. This will mark the first time any significant acreage has been planted to soybeans in our area since the early 1990s. Dairy producers are encouraged by forecasts of greatly improved milk prices this summer and fall, but are nervously watching rising input costs such as corn, soybean meal, fuel, and nitrogen fertilizer.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“It's hard to believe that after the rainy January and February weather, the winter annuals could stand some rain. The grass has really taken off and done well the past three weeks and mature cows seem to be responding well to the lush pastures and dry weather.”

— Roy Higdon, Clarke

“We need some rain showers to extend ryegrass and winter grazing into March. The average high temperature has been around 75 degrees, and without some moisture, winter grazing will begin to back up. Nitrogen application is complete and if not already placed, we are advising producers to wait on more spring green up, and then use a complete fertilization program.”

— Mike Keene, Forrest

“Planting of all crops has been delayed due to poor soil moisture conditions. Winter forage productivity has stopped because of dry weather.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Corn planting has ceased until we get some rain. Pastures are greening up well, but are dry and in need of rain.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Winter pastures are improving daily with the warmer temperatures and applications of nitrogen. Cattle are looking good with the abundance of winter grass. Gardening operations are in full swing.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from March 22, 2004 to March 28, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				56		0.26	-1.14	1	4.02				
Cleveland	78	46	64	56	+8	0.20	-1.06	1	3.48				
Tunica				56		0.00	-1.33	0	3.00				
Extreme/Average	78	46	64	57	+7	0.23	-1.10	1	3.75				
2. North-Central													
Batesville				55			-1.33	0	2.45				
Calhoun City	78	31	57	56	+1	0.00	-1.33	0	5.75				
Independence	80	29	58	54	+4	0.00	-1.19	0	3.73				
Oxford	80	29	59	54	+5	0.00	-1.33	0	2.82				
Extreme/Average		29	58	56	+2	0.00	-1.34	0	4.10				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	79	33	57	54	+3	0.00	-1.42	0	3.90				
Corinth City				57					2.20				
Iuka	79	25	52	52	0	0.00	-1.50	0	6.45				
Ripley	78	28	55	53	+2	0.00	-1.40	0	3.19				
Tupelo	80	32	58			0.00		0	5.45				
Verona				56		0.00	-1.33	0	5.61				0.22
Extreme/Average	80	25	56	55	+1	0.00	-1.42	0	4.75				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				58					2.58				
Rolling Fork	84	38	61	58	+3	0.00	-1.43	0	2.86	83	56	68	
Stoneville	81	39	64	57	+7	0.00	-1.33	0	1.44	77	50	64	
Yazoo City	82	38	60	59	+1	0.00	-1.56	0	4.80				
Extreme/Average	84	38	62	59	+3	0.00	-1.41	0	3.03	83	50	66	
5. Central													
Canton	81	34	58	59	-1	0.00	-1.40	0	0.25				
Carthage	85	32	59	58	+1	0.00	-1.40	0	2.01				
Lexington	80	31	57	58	-1	0.00	-1.40	0	3.85				
Eupora	80	29	56	56	0	0.00	-1.53	0	3.99				
Extreme/Average	85	29	57	58	-1	0.00	-1.47	0	3.28				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	79	31	58	56	+2	0.00	-1.40	0	3.24				
Houston	79	28	55	55	0	0.00	-1.47	0	3.86				
Louisville	80	31	58	56	+2	0.00	-1.52	0	1.30				
State University	82	32	57	57	0	0.00	-1.40	0	5.74	68	54	60	0.16
Extreme/Average	82	28	57	58	-1	0.00	-1.45	0	3.54	68	54	60	0.16
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	81	37	60	60	0	0.00	-1.40	0	1.69	77	56	67	
Natchez	80	39	63	62	+1	0.00	-1.57	0	1.48				
Oakley	82	35	61	59	+2	0.00	-1.50	0	1.29	75	61	69	
Vicksburg	80	40	60			0.00		0	3.33				
Extreme/Average	82	35	61	60	+1	0.00	-1.51	0	1.95	77	56	68	
8. South-Central													
Collins	80	36	59	59	0	0.00	-1.49	0	1.60				
Columbia	81	36	62	61	+1	0.00	-1.49	0	1.91				
Tylertown	81	38	61	62	-1	0.00	-1.40	0	1.08				
Extreme/Average	81	36	61	61	0	0.00	-1.47	0	1.53				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	84	31	60			0.00		0	1.03				
Hattiesburg	82	37	60	61	-1	0.00	-1.46	0	1.27				
Laurel	83	40	61	60	+1	0.00	-1.40	0	1.04				
Newton				57		0.00	-1.47	0	2.43				0.28
Extreme/Average	84	31	61	60	+1	0.00	-1.49	0	1.44				0.28
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	77	34	58	62	-4	0.00	-1.52	0	0.54				
Gulfport	74	43	61	63	-2	0.00	-1.32	0	0.54				
Pascagoula				60		0.00	-1.35	0	0.92				
Poplarville	80	39	60	61	-1	0.00	-1.44	0	1.41	79	61	69	0.19
Waveland	76	45	62	61	+1	0.00	-1.55	0	0.28				
Extreme/Average	80	34	60	62	-2	0.00	-1.43	0	0.74	79	61	69	0.19
State	85	25	59	59	0	0.01	-1.43	0	2.75	83	50	66	0.19

DFN = Departure from Normal.